



VALLEY FLOOR RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT INFORMATION

July 14, 2016

Background Information

In the early 1900's the San Miguel River was channelized (straightened) through the western part of Telluride and immediately downstream of Town to accommodate industrialization. Currently this channelized condition results in very poor aquatic habitat, causes excessive streambank erosion, and prevents the river from accessing its natural floodplain.

Purpose of Project

The Valley Floor River Restoration Project will return the river to a natural, meandering alignment in a location on the Valley Floor where the river was flowing prior to its channelization. Specifically, the restoration work will occur between the west edge of Telluride and approximately one mile downstream towards Boomerang Road. Presently, this reach of the river has the lowest habitat rating of all portions of the river on the Valley Floor. Returning the river to a natural alignment will greatly enhance the aquatic and wildlife habitat of the Valley Floor in the long-term.

We ask that you be patient with the four-month construction schedule and respect the closures which will be in place for your safety. **Please see attached Map.**

River Trail access to the Valley Floor

The River Trail will remain open during the construction period. Boomerang Rd./Trail will remain open, however access will be diverted and managed near the Boomerang Rd. Bridge.

Railroad Grade Trail on the Valley Floor

The Railroad Grade Trail between Entrada and the Boomerang Rd. will be closed during the entire construction period. We ask that you respect necessary closures for safety reasons.

River access to the Valley Floor

The river itself will remain open during most of the construction, however there will be times of limited access and/or temporary closures for safety reasons. Signs upstream of any closure will occur prior to any temporary closure and we ask all river users to respect these closures for safety reasons.

What You Will See

Initially, construction fencing will be erected on USFS and the Valley Floor land in the vicinity of Boomerang Rd./Trail and the River Trail (near the Boomerang Bridge). A partially fenced materials staging area will also be established south of the Shell Station. Boomerang Rd./Trail and the River Trail will remain open during the river restoration process; however, the Boomerang Rd./Trail will be slightly rerouted at this location. The **Railroad Grade Trail will be closed** from mid-July throughout the construction period (July-early November). Also, beaver mitigation will occur in the Boomerang Tail/Rd. area to reduce unnecessary impacts on the resident beaver population.

Large construction vehicles will be operating regularly in portions of the Valley Floor south of the Shell Station and throughout the project area. We all ask all trail users to respect the posted closures and temporary trail signs and notifications for your safety.

As the project progresses into August this staging area will increase in size and as soil removed from the new channel is stored temporarily. Expect to see a mound of soil approximately 5 feet in height across 5 acres. This material will be returned to the existing channel and distributed to other portions the project once the river has been released into the new channel.

Project Funding

Funding for the project is been provided through a partnership of Town of Telluride (\$1,041,782), State of Colorado (\$444,021), Valley Floor Preservation Partners (\$100,000), San Miguel Watershed Coalition (\$140,000) and Trout Unlimited's Telluride Chapter (\$10,000).

